

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HCR 4403

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**As Reported by House Committee On:**  
Higher Education

**Brief Description:** Providing for the 2008-2018 state comprehensive plan for workforce training.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Wallace, Anderson, Sells, Hasegawa, Chase, Kenney and Sullivan; by request of Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:**

Higher Education: 2/4/09, 2/13/09 [DP].

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Approves the comprehensive plan for workforce training, "High Skills, High Wages 2008-2018" submitted by the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

**Majority Report:** Do pass. Signed by 9 members: Representatives Wallace, Chair; Sells, Vice Chair; Anderson, Ranking Minority Member; Schmick, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Angel, Carlyle, Driscoll, Haler and White.

**Minority Report:** Do not pass. Signed by 1 member: Representative Hasegawa.

**Staff:** Cece Clynch (786-7195)

**Background:**

**Background:**

The Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (WTECB) was created in 1991 to provide planning, coordination, evaluation, monitoring, and policy analysis for the state workforce training system as a whole, and to advise the Governor and the Legislature concerning the training system. It is a tripartite partnership of business, labor, and

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government.

The WTECB updates its comprehensive plan every two years. The Legislature is required, following public hearings, to approve or make changes to the plan updates by way of a concurrent resolution. Once so approved, the plan becomes the state's workforce training policy unless legislation is enacted to alter the policies set forth in the plan. Every year, by December 1, the WTECB reports to the appropriate legislative policy committees on progress in implementing the comprehensive plan.

"High Skills, High Wages 2008-2018: Washington's Strategic Plan for Workforce Development" has a 10-year horizon and includes the following eight strategic opportunities on which to focus during that time:

1. increase high school graduation rates and ensure youth are prepared for further education and/or work;
2. expand the availability of career pathways that span secondary and postsecondary education and training;
3. increase postsecondary education and training capacity;
4. increase financial aid and retention support for workforce education students;
5. increase adult basic education skills and English language instruction that is integrated with occupational skills training;
6. improve coordination between workforce and economic development in key economic clusters through Industry Skill Panels and Centers for Excellence;
7. expand customized training for current workers; and
8. identify and remove barriers to improving and expanding employment, education, and training services.

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**Summary of Bill:**

The House of Representatives and Senate, by way of concurrent resolution, approve the state comprehensive plan for workforce training, "High Skills, High Wages 2008-2018: Washington's Strategic Plan for Workforce Development" submitted by the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board.

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**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:**

(In support) Many people from many sectors created this comprehensive plan. It is a consensus plan. Apprenticeship stakeholders were involved in developing the plan and the plan speaks for apprentice programs.

(Opposed) None.

**Persons Testifying:** Representative Wallace, prime sponsor; Eleni Papadakis, Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board; and Jody Robbins, Office of Apprenticeship, Department of Labor & Industries.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** None.